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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No.	
Filing Date	May 10, 2001
Inventorship	Čadet et al.
Assignee	Lucent Technologies Inc.
Group Art Unit	1731
Examiner	J. Derrington
Attorney's Docket No	Cadet 18-8
The Court of the C	

Title: Silica Structure Crack Monitoring

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Response To Restriction Requirement Dated December 24, 2002

To: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

From: Robert R. Axenfeld (Tel. Tel. 215-923-4466; Fax 215-923-2189)

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ELECTION/RESTRICTION

The claims are subjected to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121, as containing two patentably distinct inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-12 and 22, drawn to a process; and

Group II: Claims 13-21 drawn to an apparatus.

Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, to prosecute Group I in the event that the restriction requirement is maintained. The election is made with traverse because there are efficiencies to be gained from examining the claim set entirely. First, the Examiner will most likely perform overlapping searches when examining these groups. This is evidenced by the fact that some of the dependent

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claim in both Groups pertain to apparatus and/or processes. MPEP § 803 states that [i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner <u>must</u> examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." (emphasis added). Second, there is increased cost to Assignee and an increased burden to the Patent Office for prosecuting two separate applications.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the restriction requirement and additional examination of the withdrawn claims in Group II. At this point, Claims 13-21 have not been canceled in the hope that the restriction requirement will be removed. If the restriction is maintained, however, Applicant will cancel claims 13-21 in a subsequent response.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

Date: JAN. 21, 2003

Respectfully Submitted,

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